

**SUFFOLK COUNTY VANDERBILT MUSEUM
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Minutes

A regular meeting of the Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum Board of Trustees, which was scheduled to begin at 7:30 p.m., was held in the Planetarium Lobby, Centerport, New York, on **March 10, 2004.**

The following were in attendance:

Dr. Steven Gittelman – President
Michael Broxmeyer – 1st Vice President
Marjorie Kossoy Fuhrmann – Secretary
Dr. Anthony Pecorale – Trustee
Dr. William Rogers – Trustee
Mary Ann Jedrlnic – Trustee
Bertram E. Seides – Trustee
Susan LeBow – Trustee
J. Lance Mallamo – Executive Director
Maryann Zakshevsky – Staff
Florence Ogg – Staff
Bill Dieck – Staff
Russ Skadl – Staff
Todd Shapiro – Todd Shapiro & Associates
Leslie Tannen – Todd Shapiro & Associates
Ann Marie Pastore – Stenographer

Absent:

Carl Luecke – Treasurer
Edward Hahn – Trustee
William Macchione – Trustee

Excused Absence:

Deborah Gray – 2nd Vice President

(Dr. Steven Gittelman called the meeting to order at 8 p.m.)

DR. GITTELMAN:

This is a regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum. Welcome, guests. Do we have a list of all guests in attendance?

MS. PASTORE:

Yes.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Thank you. Does anybody wish to make a comment or ask us a question? Thank you for being in

attendance. Marge, approval of the minutes, please.

MS. FUHRMANN:

I move that the minutes of the meeting that took place on February 11, 2004 be accepted with one slight clarification.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Okay, would you tell us that clarification?

MS. FUHRMANN:

On page fourteen, paragraph four, the third sentence should be eliminated. The fourth sentence was a clarification of the information that was begun in the third sentence, and when I started the fourth sentence, I should have said so, that I was correcting the information that I started to give in the third sentence. The focus piece that needs to be corrected by the machinist is for the telescope that is housed in the observatory. It has nothing to do with the Goto.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Does everybody have that? Good. Thank you. Can I have a second?

MS. LEBOW:

Second.

DR. GITTELMAN:

All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **It passes unanimously. (Vote: 8/0/0/7 Absent: Ms. Gray, Mr. Luecke, Mr. Hahn & Mr. Macchione. Three vacant positions.)** Thank you.

Public Relation's Report.

MS. TANNEN:

We only have one video to show you tonight, but it was a lot of fun. It was Chauncey Howell from News 12 who came here. It concerned the wonderful Leap Day celebration that Wendy put together.

VIDEO PRESENTATION: 8:05 – 8:08 P.M.

2/16/04

News 12

Leap Day Celebration

MR. MALLAMO:

Is that it?

MS. TANNEN:

It was worth the wait, right?

MR. MALLAMO:

It was part of our weekday dinner that we had here. We had a doo-wop concert in the

planetarium.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Why don't you stick around while we go straight into the Development Committee, the Vanderbilt Cup, Michael.

MR. BROXMEYER:

Is Todd coming?

MS. TANNEN:

I was under the impression that he is. I can try to get him for you.

DR. GITTELMAN:

He missed dinner last night. Wait, that was Monday night.

MS. TANNEN:

I can make the call. It's up to you.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Do you want to wait until the end?

MR. BROXMEYER:

All right.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Dinosaur Committee, Ed Hahn isn't here.

MR. MALLAMO:

Ed isn't here, but I can report that we are going to have a meeting of the Dinosaur Committee on March 24 at 10 a.m. to go over all the complete proposals we have had to renovate the building.

We had the Department of Public Works here on Monday with the new engineer who we hope has come up with a modification to the plans that will result in some significant cost savings to the estimate. We expect to hear back from DPW next week whether his recommendation will be accepted.

In the meantime, I have gone up to Massachusetts to see an exhibit that has been offered to us to supplement our dinosaur exhibit. They are robotic dinosaurs, if you're familiar with them. These robotic dinosaurs have been on Long Island in the past. A similar exhibit has been at Sands Point at the Nassau County Museum in the past. Sands Point isn't running the dinosaur exhibit this year. This exhibit is now in Springfield, Massachusetts.

The company has offered it to the Vanderbilt at a profit share. There would be no cost to the museum other than splitting the profit. Right now we have to make sure that we are able to accommodate that with the building itself, so we will be reporting on that again in the future. I did see the exhibit, and we've clarified that we could fit it into the exhibit that we have, the building, and we think it would be a nice addition to that exhibit for the summer.

While up there, I stopped at Dinosaur State Park in Rocky Hill, Connecticut. I had never been there. That was a real adventure. It was fun to see how they did their interpretation. It gave

me a number of ideas to bring back here.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Did you see the two footprints?

MR. MALLAMO:

Absolutely. I think that's something we should do here. Their interpretive specialist up there is interested in working with us and making things available to us.

DR. GITTELMAN:

They have real Eubrontes footprints, but we could –

MR. MALLAMO:

You can make a cast out of plaster.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Right, and we could make Eubrontes footprints out of concrete, and then have the kids cast from the concrete.

MR. MALLAMO:

I didn't actually see them making the cast because they only do that after April.

DR. GITTELMAN:

I've done it.

MS. FUHRMANN:

I've done it, too.

DR. GITTELMAN:

It's a lot of fun. It's a great park.

MR. MALLAMO:

If any Trustee hasn't been up there, it's worth the trip to see that. We hope to wrap this up on March 24 at 10 a.m.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Okay, that was decent. Education and Exhibits, Marge. Wait, one thing first. How are we doing with the manufacturer of the building?

MR. MALLAMO:

I spoke to Phyllis Seidman at the County Attorney's Office. She has written him another letter. Hopefully we will have a response. We have not heard anything from him since he was here.

DR. GITTELMAN:

When do we file a lawsuit?

MR. MALLAMO:

Well, I think we have to give her time to get the final response from him. Hopefully I will have a report at the next meeting where we can make a decision one way or the other.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Okay. Education and Exhibits, Marge.

MS. FUHRMANN:

First we're happy to announce that the museum has hired a new Education Coordinator. Her name is Beth Laxer-Limmer. She is an educator from the museum, so we have hired from within. Unfortunately, she was not able to join us this evening. She will try to make it to the next meeting, so that she can meet all of the Trustees.

At the Education and Exhibits meeting this evening, we continued to work on one of our main objectives for this year, which is developing scavenger hunts on the grounds. We particularly did discuss the scavenger hunt for middle school students in Spanish programs. We talked about specific items that will be placed on the scavenger hunt and how the mechanics of the scavenger hunt will work. We also discussed the issue of handicapped access to the various buildings of the museum and how this issue will be handled for the scavenger hunt.

As we all know, Steve is writing up a piece for the journal for the Vanderbilt Cup festivities. Florence has been providing him with background materials as well as images and photographs.

The Tri Tech Building, which is a new building at Exit 54 on the Motor Parkway, is using our racing and Motor Parkway images in their building design interiors. They are giving us credit paying us for usage and the time of our staff in gathering these images and bringing them out there and for consulting.

The drapery project, the ship model project, and the inventory of our storage areas are ongoing.

The March 22 LIMA meeting, which you have all received a notice regarding, is at the Museum of Art in Roslyn Harbor.

At the end of this report we're going to be asking for an accession of two books. We will come back to that. We are also working on developing the floor plan signs that we had previously discussed with everyone.

During the past month, Stephanie has entered each of the over 700 accession numbers into the database Past Perfect. During the next month or so, probably within the next month, she will be entering the 16,000 objects that correspond to these accession numbers. This will require researching provenance, what chief gave this gift to Mr. Vanderbilt, what island it came from, that sort of information, to go along with the accession and description.

She is completing her log for the background – excuse me, I'm not speaking well – she is continuing her log for the grant background, who she spoke with and what they discussed in anticipation of the large grant that is forthcoming. She has been working on the text panels for the memorial wing. A new Alva display is being prepared with detailed information on the Alva history. Maintenance is ongoing in preparation for the grant money that is forthcoming.

Within the next week, there should be three or four new educators being hired. A new educator is due to start on Monday.

During the early part of April, there will be a workshop of educators to discuss summer themes and summer tours. There is no plan at this time to have a spring break program because of the

variation in weeks off. Instead they will be concentrating on setting the summer programs, and they will be working with Cornell's break programs in conjunction with our planetarium. By April 12, summer information will be out to schools and libraries.

The February break information is as follows: There were 214 children who were on site during the February break and the gross revenue was \$4,358. I do not have the net information.

On March 31, the Northport School District Dickerson Elementary School will be coming here for a special program in conjunction with their reading program. They did books as rocket fuel, and what will happen is the Astronomy Society of Long Island will be here to set up telescopes. The children will be looking through the telescopes at planets, nebula, whatever, and there will be a reception afterwards for them and their parents to discuss what they saw and the stars, etc. in conjunction with this "Reading is your Rocket Fuel to the Future."

Bookings had been slow in coming in due to the weather. However, they are coming in very quickly now, and we are full up. In fact, we are now overbooking tours and taking on additional tours so that we can make up for the time that was lost due to weather problems.

Astro-Tech will be coming in on March 31 to give us an estimate for the cost of the eyepiece that was discussed in the comment on the February minutes.

There is a problem, however, that we need to mention with the Goto. The southern end field has burned out. Therefore, we can only now show programs that concentrate in the northern hemisphere until Ash Electronics can fix it. This piece has just been sent out. It has to do with a bulb that burned out. It will be at least a month until it is back. Of course, at first we will need to get an estimate of the cost.

I'm going to go back to this accession. In your pamphlets everyone should have two pieces, one is "Cruise of the Steam Yacht North Star" and the other one is "The Log of the Alva." The "Cruise of the Steam Yacht North Star" is a book concerning Cornelius Vanderbilt's journeys in the 1850's when he took a cruise through Europe with his family. "The Log of the Alva" has to do with the first Alva, which was 1891 when they went down the Nile during the Christmas holidays that year. Florence, do you have the books with you?

MS. OGG:

Yes.

MS. FUHRMANN:

Florence has the books here for anyone who would like to see them. We know for sure that these books were here. They were just discovered in a cabinet and know for sure they have never been accessioned. We are requesting that the board accession them now, as they are really quite important pieces to our collection. In fact, I just would like to point out one thing about "The Log of the Alva." There is a photograph. On the last page there is a group photograph. This is the full photograph. We have this photograph hanging on the wall in the mansion. However, the one that's hanging up is cropped. Until this book was found, we did not know if Harold, who is the young man on the far right of this photograph, was even on this cruise. This book is our first definitive information verifying that Harold was, in fact, on the Nile cruise. Another interesting point about this photograph is the man on the far left, his name is Belmont, eventually married one of the women in the photograph much later in life.

This answers one of our unanswered questions about the family. It's a very important piece that answers some of our unanswered questions regarding the Vanderbilt's.

Would anyone like to see the actual books?

DR. GITTELMAN:

I would later on.

MS. FUHRMANN:

Anyway, I'm going to make a motion that the books be accessioned to the collection.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Could you just read the titles again?

MS. FUHRMANN:

I'd be happy to. I move that two volumes, "Cruise of the Steam Yacht North Star" and "The Log of the Alva," be accessioned to the collection of the Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Is there a second?

MR. SEIDES:

Second.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Discussion? All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **It passes unanimously. (Vote: 8/0/0/7**

Absent: Ms. Gray, Mr. Luecke, Mr. Hahn & Mr. Macchione. Three vacant positions.)

Thank you.

MS. FUHRMANN:

Thank you, all.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Before we go to Finance, let's go back to the Development Committee and the Vanderbilt Cup.

Todd Shapiro has arrived to show us how he is doing on his guarantees.

MR. SHAPIRO:

First of all, I apologize for my tardiness and such. To give an update on where we are and such, we met with the Garden City Hotel. I think the meeting went very well with Lance and the vice president of the hotel. We made a promise to them that we would provide publicity and really make the event into a press conference the day of the event with unveiling the vintage cars of the race or parade or rally or whatever we do. It will be a great thing.

We told them basically we were going to try to do a big fundraiser there and how important it was to the museum and to the history of Long Island. The Garden City Hotel was the place where the actual races were headquartered at for years. That was the official headquarters of the race. We convinced them into giving us open bar and food for three hours. Any nickel or dime you make is pure profit. I think that was a win/win situation for us.

What's good for them is we're doing it on a night where their nightclub opens up around eleven

o'clock. People that are there – let's say they get there around six o'clock, they go from six to ten, for the people who want to stay, it will become a nightclub. People that want to leave, they can leave. It helps them out, too. It's a beautiful place. They spent over a million dollars on it. It's called Posh. The place turns different colors every few seconds. They have a place called the Posh pit, which is almost perfect when you're talking about a pit with cars and stuff like that. It will be a really great place to do a fundraiser. I think it's really hip. I think people will really enjoy it.

MR. BROXMEYER:

Will the club be exclusively for the fundraiser?

MR. SHAPIRO:

Absolutely.

MR. BROXMEYER:

Will it be closed to outsiders?

MR. SHAPIRO:

Yes, nobody goes there until eleven o'clock anyway. I don't think the people that go there go to work the next day. I don't know where they find these people, but the bottom line is a Thursday night is a good night for them, so we'll do it on a Thursday night, which is good. We can get more business people to come after work than you would on a weekend. It also kicks off a weekend with festivities, whatever the festivities may be. We met with Len Rothberg and some of the Board of Trustees here were also part of it. I think the meeting went really well with Len Rothberg. They made a great proposal. He is also doing the Oyster Bay festival. Len Rothberg is the person – did you talk about this before?

MR. MALLAMO:

No, we really didn't, because we were waiting to meet with LI Business News this week.

MR. SHAPIRO:

Just to go over the people who were part of it, Len Rothberg is an event planner. Part of what he – he made two proposals. One was that he would raise the money and funds for sponsorships for the museum, and we would give him a percentage. The other one is that you would pay him a retainer and he wouldn't take any percentage.

MR. BROXMEYER:

Reduced percentage.

MR. SHAPIRO:

He's doing the Oyster Bay festival, which is a huge festival. It's one of the largest festivals on Long Island. His credibility with these companies is outstanding. I think he made a real good presentation. He knows a lot of people out there. We were just waiting before we made a decision on choosing him to work on this sponsorship because time is ticking. We wanted to sit down with Long Island Business News, like we talked about last time, to see if they would do some sort of partnership with the museum to really help launch some sort of event with them. We're meeting with the publisher, John Kominicki, and we're meeting with the sales manager on Monday morning at 9 a.m., which we invite everyone who wants to be part of it to join in.

MR. BROXMEYER:

Can you contact the committee after that meeting just so we can move forward and make a decision one way or the other?

MR. SHAPIRO:

Absolutely. We can plan a meeting with Steve later on that Monday. We can talk about that. I'll call everybody up. I will call you up that day, if that's okay. That's where we are with those two components. I spoke to the Village of Garden City today. The Village of Garden City, although they have a mayor and trustees, they have a city manager, in their case a village manager who really runs the village, at least the daily operations. He was very enthusiastic about doing something in Garden City. I don't know if he was enthusiastic about the race as much as the rally or some sort of event, but he did say he would sit down with us next week if we wanted to bring the committee to sit down with the village to talk about the proposal. He thought it was a great idea. He was excited that the hotel was part of it. He was excited that the Chamber of Commerce was part of it. There was an enthusiastic response there.

I'm meeting on Friday with Rally Motors. When we sat down and went over the different routes and the different places, the race was done at so many different locations that it targeted some of their areas. So we're going to ask them to be a sponsor, if they are considering being a sponsor. If it's in Garden City, if it's in more of the north shore area, they would become part of it because that's their demographics.

MR. BROXMEYER:

They're actually moving one of the dealerships to Carle Place, which is right around the corner from Garden City.

MR. SHAPIRO:

But I think the Mercedes will stay in Roslyn.

MR. BROXMEYER:

Right and the BMW is moving.

MR. SHAPIRO:

The Mercedes, because Vanderbilt drove a Mercedes, it will be ideal for them. One of the things I'm going to ask them as part of a sponsorship if they're willing to do this, I don't even know if they will or not, but it would be the restoration of the Lincoln, which is something we were looking to do. Rather than writing a check, we could have them do the restoration. It would be a great sponsorship.

DR. GITTELMAN:

They might not be the perfect people to restore the car.

MR. SHAPIRO:

But they could probably get the stuff. They have a complete shop in Carle Place; I don't know if you know that. They do those types of things.

DR. GITTELMAN:

People who work on new cars, generally speaking, don't know where to put the gas in on an old car. So you can have a problem with these mechanics who are used to computerized cars versus – they're not used to them.

MR. MALLAMO:

I think we should pursue this. I met yesterday with someone out in East Hampton who works on vintage cars. We have asked him if he will serve on the committee with us. He's going to take a look at the Lincoln and assist in any way he can.

MR. SHAPIRO:

What's interesting, too, is the Mercedes dealer of Huntington, the owner of the Mercedes dealer of Huntington has his own race car museum that he actually owns. He has a multi-million dollar museum that is a private museum that he brings people all over the country to come see. He might be someone –

DR. GITTELMAN:

When are you going to speak to Rally Motors?

MR. SHAPIRO:

I'm meeting with them on Friday.

DR. GITTELMAN:

I think you have to clarify. Mr. Vanderbilt didn't drive a Mercedes.

MR. SHAPIRO:

There was a race –

DR. GITTELMAN:

His use of the Mercedes was absolutely critical for the race. He would sit at the starting line, a car would go out, there would be a report of an accident and Vanderbilt would go hurdling out in the Mercedes at 90 miles an hour or whatever speed he could get up to. He would pass racing cars at times so that he could be at the site. He ran the race, and this was his official vehicle for getting around this 31-mile track. The Mercedes was his – it wasn't just that he drove a Mercedes. In this particular case, this was the official vehicle for the race.

MR. MALLAMO:

I think what Todd is talking about is he actually drove the Mercedes in the Ormond Beach race and broke the speed record in 1904.

MR. SHAPIRO:

What I would like to do is, I don't want to be the one making the full presentation. I would like to see if there is an interest from them. At that point, maybe yourself or some of the members of the Trustees would go there and make a formal presentation. I would just like to get some sort of dialogue going, talk a little about some of the history of it, and then bring somebody on. If not Rally, there are a lot of other people that would love to be part of it. I truly believe that.

MR. MALLAMO:

Todd was kind enough to get me an invitation to a party at Rally Motors last week that I attended where the owner unveiled her 2004 Mercedes SLR McLaren, the first one off the line, highest price ever paid for a new automobile. I thought it would be great if we could convince her to bring that to our activity in October with a 1904 Mercedes. We'll see if we can get one. She had it at Rally Motors last week.

MR. SHAPIRO:

That's where we are with that. We also spoke about possibly doing a kick-off event. If you look through the different proposed activities and events, it lists a lot of types of events that would be involved. It's not just one event of a race. There are many different opportunities and different events from participating in Ormond Beach all the way down to the different types of things in Bridgehampton and such. One thing we talked about, too, is because we're focusing now on Nassau County and this is a Suffolk County institution, that we would have a kick off event and launch everything in Suffolk maybe with the County Legislature at the Legislature. Maybe we could bring cars over there and really do a launch over there, maybe even have the Legislators wearing funky hats and going out to the cars and doing photo-ops and really launching a month or two months' worth of the Vanderbilt Cup celebration and anniversary, which I think would make people feel really good about it and add to the spirit to the Legislature, which I'm sure they would be very enthusiastic about.

DR. GITTELMAN:

We could have little race cars on a slope and let's race them down the slope. We could have each Legislator get a little race car and see which ones goes the furthest.

MR. MALLAMO:

We're also going to include a development and education program for the summer based on the Vanderbilt Cup Race. So we'll be working on that as well. This document is still a fluid document. We're still working on refining the activities and refining the committee. We don't have all the people set yet but –

MR. SHAPIRO:

We've been coming – and I know it seems like we haven't gotten as much as we wanted but I think we have gotten in the last two weeks a lot out. We already have the Chambers of Commerce. We already have the hotel. We have the site and people ready to do fundraising issues.

MR. MALLAMO:

We have the car clubs.

MR. SHAPIRO:

Within a week or so I think everything, with the board's approval, will be in place. Everyone we've been talking to to be part of the committee has been enthusiastic about being part of the committee.

MR. BROXMEYER:

Of this list, the Advisory Committee, every one of these people have committed to being a part of this?

MR. SHAPIRO:

At least \$10,000 to \$15,000. No, I'm kidding, Michael.

MR. BROXMEYER:

Good job, and you said you don't do fundraising. Have they committed to spending time on this?

MR. SHAPIRO:

Everyone has committed to be part of this, from WBAB –

MR. MALLAMO:

Informally, Michael. We're going to be sending letters out on Friday.

MR. BROXMEYER:

We're going to start to set up meetings?

MR. SHAPIRO:

We're going to have a meeting every other week from now until the race. If they can't make it one week somebody else will make it. There will be somebody from the radio station, somebody from Long Island Commercial Bank, somebody from LIPA, somebody from Nassau County. This will be a committee that meets on a regular basis.

MR. BROXMEYER:

Then why wouldn't other board members that are involved in this effort be on this committee as well?

MR. SHAPIRO:

They are. Everyone here?

MR. BROXMEYER:

The only one listed is Steve.

MR. SHAPIRO:

It's an open invitation to everyone.

MR. MALLAMO:

Leslie and I had that conversation, so we will put all Trustees on that committee.

MR. SHAPIRO:

It wasn't an oversight – I mean, it was an oversight. When we do anything, we work for the whole board. There is not just one person. Everything that we do, every committee is open for the board and trustees to be involved in and be a part of. We hope and we encourage it because we could use as much guidance and help as possible on this event.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Maybe you should take my name off and put everybody else's on.

MR. BROXMEYER:

You could write the Board of Trustees.

MR. SHAPIRO:

It was an oversight on our part.

MR. BROXMEYER:

I'd love to see every single Board Member's name on here.

MR. SHAPIRO:

Anything we do literature-wise is going to have every Board Members' name, anything that goes out will have Board Members' names, anything to do with the Legislature, any press event, as we

have done in the past, has involved every Board Member. There will be a lot of those opportunities, which we will present.

MR. BROXMEYER:

When do you envision the first meeting of that committee?

MR. SHAPIRO:

My only fear –

MR. MALLAMO:

Leslie and I set that today.

MR. SHAPIRO:

My only fear, though, is if we sit down with this board and we don't have a location, everyone is going to put their two cents in. We'd like to have a location ironed out by next week before we have the first meeting with everyone.

DR. GITTELMAN:

We'll end up talking for hours about location.

MR. SHAPIRO:

I think once we sit down with the Long Island Business News, between them, Len, and the City of Garden City –

MR. BROXMEYER:

So within the next two weeks.

MR. SHAPIRO:

I would say by next Friday we should have that worked out.

MR. MALLAMO:

We're hoping for March 22 –

MS. TANNEN:

March 29, Monday.

MR. MALLAMO:

Monday, March 29, I'm sorry. We would have a meeting here, which everyone would be invited to.

MR. SHAPIRO:

And we could move the meetings, too. We could have one meeting here and one meeting in Nassau County. We could move them to different locations, have one meeting at the Garden City Hotel or have it at different places so it's convenient for the other people.

MR. MALLAMO:

That would be at one o'clock.

MS. LEBOW:

Can I ask a question? We have the Garden City Hotel as a focal point in Nassau. Are we going to have any event with the focal point in Suffolk, let's say where the race terminated so that we can bring all of the –

MR. SHAPRIO:

We're going to do the kick-off event and some of the events in Bridgehampton.

MS. LEBOW:

Yes, but --

MR. SHAPIRO:

Where it's going to be part of the rally. The actual race itself is going to go from here out to Bridgehampton and back to Garden City.

MS. LEBOW:

But that's the east end. We need to do something with the west end, too.

MR. MALLAMO:

This would start at the Vanderbilt Museum and –

MS. LEBOW:

And we should have an event here, too.

MR. MALLAMO:

We tried to work a route out where we would pass through every town of Suffolk County.

MS. LEBOW:

Now that –

MR. MALLAMO:

It would go from Huntington to Southold through Shelter Island to East Hampton and then on Sunday return along the south shore.

MS. LEBOW:

Refresh my recollection, though, are we going to do our event in conjunction with this rather than on a different date?

MR. BROXMEYER:

We're going to have the event at the Garden City Hotel.

MR. MALLAMO:

We're going to have the event in Garden City.

MS. LEBOW:

No, I'm talking about another event out here.

MR. BROXMEYER:

No.

MR. SHAPIRO:

You mean a fundraiser?

MS. LEBOW:

Not necessarily a fundraiser but an event to get our Legislators and our local people, our Suffolk people involved. I don't know how many of them will go to Garden City.

MR. SHAPIRO:

We're going to get a lot of them. We're going to do a lot of different events. When this committee meets, we're going to have a lot of different things geared out here as well.

MR. MALLAMO:

We do have car shows –

MR. SHAPIRO:

One of the reasons why we're doing this in Nassau County, it's not that we want to be in Nassau County –

MS. LEBOW:

I know that.

MR. SHAPIRO:

It's because historically it's correct.

MS. LEBOW:

I know that.

MR. SHAPIRO:

And you can't do something if it's not – to be a museum and not do it historically correct in that location would be – you have Newsday looking at this. You have a lot of different publications looking at the history. It would be a lot easier to do it in the Village of Huntington. It's a beautiful place. There are a lot of people. They would be happy and excited, but it's not historically correct.

MS. LEBOW:

But it is historically correct to tie it in with this site.

MR. SHAPIRO:

Absolutely, to be part of it and do events.

MS. LEBOW:

This site is in western Suffolk.

MR. MALLAMO:

So we could kick off the rally the following day after the cocktail party. We could have an event here in the morning to kick it off and invite the media.

MR. SHAPIRO:

We are. We're going to do a bunch of different things.

MS. LEBOW:

So that you encourage your local people to come here. They'll come here, but they may not go to Garden City.

MR. SHAPIRO:

And we're going to do something at the Legislature itself. We're working with the Presiding Officer's Office.

MR. BROXMEYER:

We're going to also need to meet as well to talk about the actual fundraising aspects of the event. One part of that is we're going to do a raffle again, which Marjorie is going to handle. Would you like to say something about that?

MS. FUHRMANN:

No, you can talk about it.

MR. BROXMEYER:

Marjorie would like to establish a raffle committee to help collect raffle prizes to be raffled off. Would anyone volunteer to do that?

MS. JEDRLINIC:

I will.

MS. FUHRMANN:

Thank you.

MR. SHAPIRO:

If anybody has any other questions, and they want to call me in the office at any time or have ideas, we encourage everyone to be a part of this. We could use as much input from the board as possible. Everyone has different ideas or creativity or if they want to sit down, we'll sit down anytime and meet with anybody at their offices or anything like that to brainstorm or to really add a lot more to this event and make it a spectacular event.

MR. BROXMEYER:

Just to get specifics on the Garden City Hotel as far as the food goes, are they just going to have passed hors d'oeuvres?

MR. SHAPIRO:

They're going to have a buffet. It's not going to be a sit down dinner.

MR. BROXMEYER:

But there will be enough food that people won't walk away hungry.

MR. SHAPIRO:

There will definitely be food. Will it be gourmet? No, but it will be a buffet style type of thing.

MR. BROXMEYER:

It won't be just cheese and crackers; right?

MR. SHAPIRO:

No. I can promise you this; it's indoors so there will be no storm.

MR. BROXMEYER:

Do they have a back-up generator?

DR. GITTELMAN:

We've learned to ask these questions from experience. Thank you, Todd.

MR. SHAPIRO:

Thank you for the opportunity. I'm sorry for being late again.

DR. GITTELMAN:

We're moving back to the Finance Committee. Marge, are you doing Finance?

MS. FUHRMANN:

Tony is going to do Finance.

DR. PECORALE:

All the Trustees have a copy of the Treasurer's Report for the year 2004. Our January actual is in line with our projections for January. Of course, the snow and school cancellations did hurt our revenue segment. Because of the cold weather our utility expenses were higher than were expected. It should be noted, though, that we did expect a deficit for January. We're not overly concerned with respect to the revenue projects for the year. Does anyone have any questions that they would like to ask about the Treasurer's Report? Carl should be here next month.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Do you mean the Finance Report?

DR. PECORALE:

Yes.

DR. PECORALE:

The Finance Report also should include the fact that you have within your packets a copy of the Request for Proposal for the possible award to a caterer. Every Trustee has a copy of that proposal in their packet.

MR. MALLAMO:

It's been reviewed by the County Attorney, but if anyone – this is a latest draft. This is still subject to revision. If you read through it and you think of something that you don't think we've addressed properly, drop me a note and we'll review it and include it.

MR. BROXMEYER:

When do we expect to get approval, a few weeks?

MR. MALLAMO:

I hope it will be within a few weeks, Michael. They're going through a whole reorganization over there in the County Attorney's Office. I will keep pushing for it. I think it's pretty simple. It's

modeled on other contracts and RFP's that the County has put out. I think they are primarily looking that we have dotted the I's and crossed the T's.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Okay. Personnel Committee.

MR. MALLAMO:

There has been no meeting this month, but Deborah has called a meeting for March 18 at 9 a.m.

DR. PECORALE:

Where?

MR. MALLAMO:

That will be here at the museum – actually, across the street at Normandy Manor.

DR. GITTELMAN:

Director's Report.

MR. MALLAMO:

Last week I attended a review of our Capital Budget at the County Executive's Office. They will be coming here on Friday to meet with Budget Review to go over our Capital Budget request and see the progress that we have made in the past year. I think they will be pleasantly surprised. The mansion's heating and wiring are all but complete. We're just waiting for the installation of the air conditioning equipment. The prep work has all been done for that. The chillers have arrived.

The seaplane hangar is nearing completion of the clean-out so that the design can proceed. We have now access to the entire building. The RFP's are being prepared for the waterfront development and the façade projects. Two projects are being put out to bid, one for ADA improvements to the Education Building and one for the extension of the brick walkway projects. They were here yesterday on that. Those are moving ahead.

We're very excited about what's happening with the Vanderbilt Cup. I'll just add that I am getting calls from all over the country. I got a call yesterday from the Indianapolis 500 who wanted to put something in their program for this year's race on the Vanderbilt Cup. People are hearing about it, and they know we're doing it.

DR. GITTELMAN:

I wanted to take my slot for the President's Report and tell you about my project regarding the cup, which I'm having a lot of fun with. What I propose is that I kind of write a couple of chapters of a book, and what it will be is Mr. Vanderbilt from the races through the Broadway play through the highway. I want to tell you what I found out so far, if I can just clue you in, because it's really been quite a revelation to me.

I met a new Mr. Vanderbilt. It's not the Willie we know. It's the serious Willie. Serious Willie is different than the Willie I thought we had here. He was a playboy, right? He was kind of a flighty guy, not a serious person, a rich guy who traveled the world. That's the perception about him. He did all this stuff. He built the highway so that he could race his cars. He was into racing. This was not a serious guy.

Now I'll give you a new slant. First of all, Willie certainly grew up under the, shall we say, aspirations of his great grandfather and the fact that he lived with the accomplishments of the New York Central Railroad and a steamship company. He was an adventurous and very well liked guy, very handsome, rather together guy. In fact, if you read the way they portray him at the races, which by the way he did not race in, he just simply provided the cup. He managed – he's really looked upon as the leader, the guy in charge. He was 26 years old, driving a Mercedes starting the race, coordinating the race. He's just got his act together.

The first race was 1904. The second was '05. The third was '06. They skipped a year and they went to '08. By '08 he's already started building the highway. They run five miles or so, plus or minus, you can correct me anytime you want, five miles or so of the races, which is the 31 mile track that they do about nine or ten times in the circuit. Only five miles is on the highway. By that time, the highway was falling apart.

Obviously, the concept of the highway was something that Willie had when he started the races, but he couldn't possibly have intended the highway to be a racetrack because races at that time had to be between 270 and 300 miles long, and that meant it had to be a circle. The current course that they were taking was the 31 mile course, which they did nine times, I think. The rules were that the winner of the race, at least in Europe, the winner of the race got to have the race in the host country. Could you imagine Willie building a three-quarter of a billion dollars – that's how much he got together in today's dollars – three-quarters of a billion dollars just for a racetrack, especially since by 1909 races were run on circular tracks where the public wasn't on the track to get clobbered.

Yes, there were a few races that were cross-country races that remained residual, but what happened was when Willie went over in his early twenties and late teens to Europe and he did race, he saw that the prestige went to the country that won. They developed their industry around it. They made a lot of money from the races. He saw economics tied into the automobile.

I believe, and I can tell you by the time I get this together you will have quotes, he had in mind something grander than the New York Central. He wanted to build a highway system. He started out in 1907 or 1906 to build what was a limited access highway system, which as far as I'm concerned was supposed to go through the city and out to the west, although he never got so far because a guy named Robert Moses came along and started in 1922 and must have been rumored by 1918 that it was going to be public money to build the roads. Willie's grand idea, as grand as any of his predecessors, was to build a modern highway system. He understood the importance of the automobile. Willie may have been at the wrong time and place and certainly once he tried to buy the land going out east in order to build the road all the way to Riverhead and once Robert Moses was saying, "Hey, look, I'm using public money," people were not going to give him money to continue his dream. But his dream was as grand as the New York Central Railroad, if not even grander.

Our Willie was a pretty substantial guy. In 1919 he became the President of the New York Central Railroad. I've got to figure out why he only lasted a year, maybe because it wasn't his, and then he started a whole new life as a biologist, traveling the world. Not a low profile, low intellectual guy. This is a guy with big dreams, energy to put it together, and someone that has more significance than the north shore playboy that we think he was. He was a real leader. He acted that way. If you read the quotes about him, he's due for a reinterpretation.

I'm hoping to put out two chapters or some pages, and I'm hoping to get sponsors for the pictures. I'll write the text. I'm hoping that that will be our journal for this year as opposed to a journal-journal with ads. It will be at the bottom, maybe Fleet Bank sponsors this color print, and believe me, have we got material, like the cup.

By the way, the play, we have the music for the play. We have things like this. It's endless. If we can't sell these pages to some bank or to some business and just put it on the bottom, that this would be a two-page fold-out, and the next page will be a description of what's going on, that's going to be our journal, then it will be a piece that we can use in the future. If he gets to end his life as a biologist and I get to begin my life as a biologist, I want to write about him as a biologist at the end. I think I'm going to have a lot of fun with this. That's the end of my report.

MS. LEBOW:

Maybe we should write a play.

DR. GITTELMAN:

The play was written. It was on Broadway.

MS. LEBOW:

No, write a new play about the real Willie.

DR. GITTELMAN:

We should write something about the real Willie. That's what we're going to try to do, but the old play I haven't gone through yet. I have to read the score. I'm told it needs almost an interpretive handbook. You know the first time you read "Shakespeare?" Romeo and who? You can't understand who's going where. The jokes are such inside jokes that you can't get a good laugh out of the deal. Anyway, we have a lot to write about. It is interesting. I think he was a substantial guy, and so is this place. That's my report.

Old business?

MR. MALLAMO:

We do have a little old business to take care of. We established a meeting schedule for this year.

DR. GITTELMAN:

This will not go away, folks.

MR. MALLAMO:

All of our meetings were to be held on Wednesdays. Unfortunately, Bill Macchione didn't get to respond in a timely manner. He indicated he can't make any meeting on a Wednesday. Four Trustees and myself have developed a conflict with the May 12th meeting. That's the AAM meeting. If we can look at April and May –

MS. FUHRMANN:

We already moved the May 12th meeting to May 13th. It's a Thursday. That was done last month. That was a done deal.

MR. MALLAMO:

I'm sorry, Marjorie, I meant to say there is a conflict with the 13th. The 12th was a conflict for

Bill because he can't make it. Can we start with April?

MS. FUHRMANN:

Right now it's on April 14th. Does the 13th or the 15th work?

DR. PECORALE:

The 15th I can't do.

MR. MALLAMO:

The 13th?

MR. BROXMEYER:

It's a Tuesday?

MR. MALLAMO:

How about Tuesday the 13th?

DR. PECORALE:

Is that a definite change now?

DR. GITTELMAN:

It's a definite maybe.

MR. SEIDES:

Lance, the 13th is not good. I have an HDAC every second Tuesday.

MR. MALLAMO:

Do you want to try the follow week, which would be April 20th?

DR. PECORALE:

I can't make it that day.

MS. PASTORE:

That's a General Meeting of the Legislature.

MR. MALLAMO:

What about the 22nd?

MS. PASTORE:

I'm going on vacation right after the General Meeting.

MR. MALLAMO:

How about the week before, April 6th?

MS. FUHRMANN:

No, it's Passover.

MR. BROXMEYER:

I'm going away that week.

MR. MALLAMO:

How about April 8th?

MR. BROXMEYER:

I'm away that whole week.

MS. FUHRMANN:

The kids are off from school that week.

MR. MALLAMO:

I guess there is no date we can change to.

MS. PASTORE:

What about a Monday?

MS. LEBOW:

Monday the 5th is the beginning of Passover.

DR. PECORALE:

What about the 19th?

MS. PASTORE:

That sounds good.

MR. BROXMEYER:

I thought you said you were away that whole week.

MS. PASTORE:

No, I'm going away after the General Meeting; I'm taking some time off after the 20th.

MR. MALLAMO:

Let's go to the May meeting. What about May 4th or May 18th or the 20th?

MS. LEBOW:

May 4th is really not a lot of time from April 19th. That's two weeks.

MR. MALLAMO:

How about the 18th?

DR. PECORALE:

That's the day of the school budgets throughout the State of New York.

MR. MALLAMO:

May 17th or the 20th?

DR. PECORALE:

That's okay with me.

MS. FUHRMANN:

Me, too.

MR. MALLAMO:

Okay, April 19th and May 20th.

DR. GITTELMAN:

I'm going to cut it off there and say that's it.

MS. FUHRMANN:

Could we just do June? It will take us through the end of the school year.

MS. LEBOW:

The problem with not doing it for the whole year is then when you come to a meeting and you say next month we're going to do it this date, by that time people have booked so many things.

MR. MALLAMO:

What about the 10th?

DR. PECORALE:

Are we going with the 10th?

MS. FUHRMANN:

We already have the 16th written down.

MR. MALLAMO:

But we're going to redo that.

MS. LEBOW:

But if we do it on the 10th, it's only two weeks from the last meeting.

DR. PECORALE:

What about the 17th? That's the following Thursday.

MR. MALLAMO:

Is that okay with everyone? Okay. July we're not doing a meeting unless it was needed.

MR. BROXMEYER:

You'll fax or e-mail something out?

MR. MALLAMO:

Yes, I will try to send an e-mail out and work the rest of the year out.

MR. SEIDES:

I'd like to take this opportunity, if I may, as Chair of Buildings and Grounds to just thank Bill Dieck and the Buildings and Grounds' crew for maintaining our site over the winter, keeping the roads clear, the sidewalks clear, salted, and safe for our visitors here at the campus. We look forward to the crew maintaining our site in such a beautiful manner as they did last season. Thank you.

MS. PASTORE:

Lance, can you just state on the record if there are any excused absences.

MR. MALLAMO:

Yes, Deborah Gray has an excused absence.

DR. GITTELMAN:

New business?

MR. SEIDES:

Have there been any resumes forwarded for a Director of Development?

MR. MALLAMO:

Not yet. We haven't placed an ad yet. We're trying to get our finances up a little bit.

DR. GITTELMAN:

We have not established a need for an executive session. May I have a motion to adjourn?

MS. FUHRMANN:

Motion.

MS. LEBOW:

Second.

DR. GITTELMAN:

All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? **(Vote: 8/0/0/7 Absent: Ms. Gray, Mr. Luecke, Mr. Hahn & Mr. Macchione. Three vacant positions.)** Thank you. We stand adjourned.

(Dr. Gittelman adjourned the meeting at 9:10 p.m.)